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SUDBURY URBAN DISTRICT
OR
BOROUGH OF SUDBURY
IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1953

TO the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Sudbury:—

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration, the Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Borough of Sudbury for the year 1953.

The statistics for the year are satisfactory and compare favourably with the figures for the Country as a whole.

Outbreaks of both measles and whooping cough occurred but no deaths resulted from the notifiable diseases.

The most disturbing matter noted in connection with the notifiable diseases is the comparatively large numbers of food poisoning and dysentery reported. Efforts were made to secure the cleaner handling of food, particularly meat in transit, but the methods adopted in some shops in handling food stuffs leaves a great deal to be desired.

Shoppers could greatly assist in improving these conditions by insisting on the employment of suitable instruments in the handling of unwrapped food stuffs.

I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the support received from the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee and to record my thanks to the Town Clerk, Mr. R Coates, the Borough Surveyor, Mr. C. L. Heyne, and Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. K. Hunt for their co-operation during the year reviewed.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. P. BARCLAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

1.—General Statistics

Figures in brackets relate to the previous year

Population, Registrar General's Estimate 6205 (6228)

Area 1925 acres

Number of inhabited Houses 2700 (2591)

Rateable Value £37,799 (£36,535)

Sum represented by a penny rate at 31/3/53 £147 11s. 2d. (£143 7s. 8d.)

2.—Extracts of Vital Statistics for the Year

LIVE BIRTHS	TOTAL	M	F	Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	... ... ... ... 15.63 (12.4)
Legitimate	92 (74)	52 (40)	40 (34)	Adjusted Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	.. .. 17.19 (13.6)
Illegitimate	5 (3)	1 (3)	4 (0)	England and Wales	.. .. 15.5 (15.3)
Total ..	97 (77)	53 (43)	44 (34)		
	—	—	—		

STILL BIRTHS	Legitimate	0 (4)	0 (1)	1 (3)	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live Births	.. 10.2 (51.9)
	Illegitimate	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live Births, England and Wales	.. 22.4 (27.6)
	Total ..	—	—	—		

Illegitimate Birth Rate 5.1 per cent.

DEATHS registered in 1953		Death Rate (crude)	..	..	15.15 (16.2)
		Death Rate (adjusted)	..	..	10.61 (11.4)
		Death Rate of England and Wales			11.4 (11.3)
TOTAL 94 (101)	Male 45 (46)	Female 49 (55)			
Number of Women dying in or in consequence of child-birth, pregnancy or abortion					
(a) from sepsis	..	..	..	..	0
(b) other causes	..	..	..	..	0
Deaths of Infants under one year	Legitimate		..	..	0 (3)
	Illegitimate		..	..	0 (0)
Death Rate of Infants under one year					
All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	10.2 (38.9)
England and Wales per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	26.8 (27.6)
Causes of Death of Infants under one month					
(a) Prematurity	..	..	..	..	0
(b) Congenital Malformation	..	..	..	..	0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	0
	MALE	FEMALE		TOTAL	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	12 (9)	6 (7)	18 (16)	
Deaths from Heart Diseases	..	19 (27)	25 (33)	44 (50)	
Deaths from Bronchitis	..	0 (3)	0 (0)	0 (3)	
Deaths from Pneumonia	..	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)	
Deaths from Nephritis	..	0 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)	
Deaths from Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (1)	0 (1)	
Deaths from Tuberculosis (other forms)	..	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	
Deaths from Leukaemia	..	1 (0)	0 (1)	1 (1)	
Deaths from Vascular Lesions of the					
Nervous System	..	6 (7)	9 (4)	15 (11)	
Accidents (Motor Vehicle)	..	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	
Accidents (Other)	..	1 (1)	0 (0)	1 (1)	
Suicide	..	1 (0)	0 (1)	1 (1)	
Homicide	..	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	

SECTION B

A. WATER SUPPLY

An adequate supply of water has been maintained throughout the district. Quarterly bacteriological analyses have been taken, in all cases the results have been excellent. The samples were taken after chlorination, which is carried out as a precautionary measure only.

No chemical analysis was taken during the year. Owing to the extreme hardness of the water there is no danger from dissolved lead.

B. SEWERAGE AND SEWERAGE DISPOSAL

A reasonably good effluent has been maintained throughout the year.

SECTION C

1. PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health who also acts for other districts.
One Sanitary Inspector, Member of Sanitary Institute.

2. AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The West Suffolk County Council are responsible for the ambulance service which is carried on through the agency of the West Suffolk Branch of the British Red Cross Society.

3. NURSING IN THE HOME

The West Suffolk County Council's Home nursing and midwifery service supply two District Nurses.

4. INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

The West Suffolk County Council provide one centre in the town. A clinic is held weekly at the Youth Club premises, Stour Street, on Thursdays at 2 p.m.

5. HOSPITALS

St. Leonards, 43 Beds.
Walnutree, 170 Beds.

6. LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory Service directed by the Medical Research Council, at Ipswich has given the Borough very generous service.

SECTION D

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspector during 1953 :

INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES

Total number of inspections for all purposes	1430
Number of re-inspections	934
Number of nuisances found	63
Number of nuisances abated	41
Number of informal notices served	63
Number of informal notices complied with	33
Number of statutory notices served	15
Number of statutory notices complied with	8
Number of informal notices outstanding at 31-12-53	15
Number of statutory notices outstanding at 31-12-53	7

HOUSING—CLEARANCE AREAS

No clearance areas were declared by the Council during 1953.

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES

Number of houses demolished..	Nil
Number of houses closed	
(a) by closing order	Nil
(b) in pursuance of an undertaking by the owners	1
Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit by the owners as a result of informal action	12
Number of defective houses remedied by the owners after service of statutory notice under the Public Health Act, 1936	6
Number of unfit houses made fit by the owners after service of statutory notice under the Housing Act, 1936	Nil

DEFECTS REMEDIED AND NUISANCES ABATED

Defective floors	3
Defective plasterwork	7
Defective fireplaces	1
Defective windows	8
Defective roofs	17
Damp dwellings	19
Defective construction of drains	1
Choked drains	5
Defective eave spouts and fall pipes	8
Defective water closets	6
Dirty urinals, sanitary conveniences, etc.	0
Defective flushing apparatus	3
Defective sinks	0
Defective waste pipes	1
Miscellaneous defects	12
Dirty dwellings	2
Dirty yards	1
Offensive smells	1
Animals kept in insanitary condition	1

TEMPORARY DWELLINGS

Number of moveable dwellings licensed	3
Number of inspections	6

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Number of nuisances found	1
Number of complaints dealt with	1

BAKEHOUSES

Number on register	13
Number of inspections	72
Number of defects dealt with	5

DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS

Number on register ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Number of inspections ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	48

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Premises registered											
(a) Manufacture of ice cream ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
(b) Storeage and/or sale of ice cream ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
(c) Manufacture of sausages ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
(d) Manufacture of preserved food ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
No. of inspections ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	114

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

During the year the following foodstuffs were condemned:

MEAT, MEAT PRODUCTS AND BACON:

10 articles—total weight 175 lbs.

CANNED FOODS:

701 articles—approximate weight 740lbs.

All condemned food was either burnt or buried at the Council's refuse tips.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Premises fumigated ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Filthy or verminous premises sprayed with insecticide ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Miscellaneous treatments (e.g. wasps nests removed) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11

In addition, the refuse tips at Ballingdon and Waldingfield Road were treated at regular intervals against infestation by flies, crickets, etc.

The ponds at Priory Stadium were sprayed with malaria oil to abate a nuisance caused by a large number of mosquitoes.

RODENT CONTROL (Period 1-1-53 to 31-3-54)

Number of properties inspected ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1868
Number of properties found to be infested by rats ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	364
Number of infested properties treated by rodent operator:											
(a) Council properties (sewage works and pumping station, refuse tips) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
(b) Private dwellinghouse ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	334
(c) Agricultural premises ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
(d) Other premises ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Number of infested properties treated by private servicing companies ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Number of notices served (informal and statutory) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0

Three treatments of the Council's sewers were carried out during the period. Of a total of 270 manholes, an average of 210 were treated. The average number of manholes found to be infested was 73, i.e. 27% of the total number of manholes, compared with 35% for the year 1952.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Premises inspected and licensed	3
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SAMPLING

Samples of water supply and milk taken during the year were satisfactory.

COUNCIL ESTATES

A considerable amount of time was spent on work connected with the management of the Council's housing estates, visits being made to deal with tenants' complaints, the supervision of repairs, the erection of outbuildings, and general observance of the Council's tenancy regulations.

J. K. HUNT,
Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION E.

National Assistance Act, 1948

Section 47.—Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and protection.
No cases arose during the year calling for action in accordance with this section of the Act.

SECTION F

Prevention of and Control over Infectious Diseases

NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED

DISEASE								CASES NOTIFIED
Scarlet Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23 (31)
Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	74 (0)
Measles ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	173 (41)
Pneumonia ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 (2)
Infective Jaundice ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 (31)
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4 (2)
Erysipelas ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 (1)
Poliomyelitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 (1)
Food Poisoning ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Dysentery ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12

Figures in parentheses refer to the Year 1952.

AGE OF INCIDENCE

DISEASE	0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—
Scarlet Fever ..	—	1	1	18	2	1	—
Whooping Cough ..	7	14	14	35	3	—	1
Measles ..	3	2	24	45	95	5	1
Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

TUBERCULOSIS

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	
Number of cases at commencement of year	13	18	31	8	2	10	41
Number of cases added during year	4	2	6	—	1	1	7
Number of cases removed during year	2	1	3	—	—	—	3
Number of cases remaining on register at end of year	15	19	34	8	3	11	45

No action has been called for under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Reasons for removal from Register : Left district, 2. Recovered, 1.

SECTION G

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937

I.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities **	1	13	41	1	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	2	76	129	—	—	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding outworkers' premises) ..	3	7	16	—	—	3
Total ..		96	186	1	—	

FACTORY ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were in- stituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	7	1	1	-	-	-	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	-	-	-	-	-	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) insufficient ..	9	-	-	-	-	-	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	10	-	-	-	-	-	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	11	-	-	-	-	-	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	-	-	-	-	-	12
Total	60	1	1	-	-	-	60

* e.g. Metropolitan Borough, County Borough, Borough, Urban District, Rural District.

† i.e. Electrical Stations (Section 103(1)), Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

** Wide differences exist in the lists kept respectively by the Local Authorities and H.M.Inspectors of Factories of the numbers of factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 of the Factories Acts, 1937 are enforced by Local Authorities. It is requested therefore that Local Authorities should, as soon as can conveniently be arranged, compare their lists of factories with the lists kept by H.M. Inspectors of Factories.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	M/c line No.	Section 110 No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) 4
Textile weaving	43	

G. P. BARCLAY,

Medical Officer of Health.